

Example of letter being sent to Public Assembly Permit recipients with Businesses that that may be subject to Nightclub Sprinkler Law.

June 1, 2006

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about a state law which goes into effect June 1, 2006 that could potentially require that fire sprinklers be installed in your place of business. In May of 2005 the Washington State Legislature approved Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 1401 which required that fire sprinklers be installed in existing nightclubs by December 1, 2007. Specific criteria was adopted to define the term “nightclub” for the purpose of determining whether or not the sprinkler requirement applied to a particular club or business establishment. Local fire officials and building officials are charged with enforcing the provisions of the law through the Washington State Building Code Act.

Your entertainment business has been identified as *potentially* meeting the definition of a nightclub that would be subject to this law. A Seattle Fire Department representative will be contacting you in the near future to meet with you to determine if your business will be required to install fire sprinklers.

A blue-print or scaled drawing of your place of business will be helpful in expediting the process to determine if you will be required to install fire sprinklers.

The Seattle Fire Department web page, www.seattle.gov/fire contains links to several related documents to Nightclub Fire Sprinkler Law. They include ESHB 1401 and information published by the Washington State Building Code Council, the state agency which adopts the provisions of the rules into Washington Administrative Code.

We understand that the provisions of this law may have significant financial and business implications on the operation of your business. We will make every effort to help you understand the requirements of the law and whether it will apply to your business.

Very truly yours,

Chief John H. Nelsen
Fire Marshal